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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
8 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

STATE DEPT>
Review Completed

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 111
(as of 0630 EST)

MORI/CDF
C03362103

THE MILITARY SITUATION

(All times cited in military paragraphs are
Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

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2. The Syrians claim to have downed an Israeli Phantom this morning. The aircraft, according to the Syrians, was flying a reconnaissance mission over southern Syria.

3. Sporadic shelling was reported yesterday on both the Egyptian and Syrian fronts, but there were no subsequent reports of cease-fire violations over the night. Despite the lack of activity, however,

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the situation reportedly remains tense with all sides expecting the worst from their opposition. The events suggesting that a reopening of hostilities is possible is reviewed at annex.

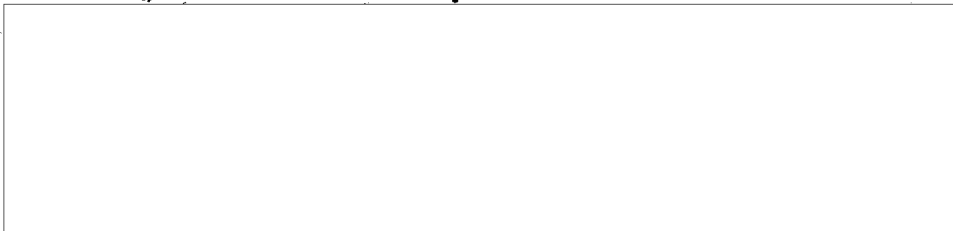
OIL

4. An Egyptian Embassy officer in Brussels has told the US Embassy that, notwithstanding Arab satisfaction with the EC Nine declaration of 6 November, the oil boycott against the Netherlands would not be lifted. The very fact of the declaration, which favored the Arab position, was a clear demonstration that the Arabs can change the attitudes of others when they are willing to take a firm stand. The Egyptian said that a lifting of the Dutch embargo now would indicate that the Arabs are not prepared to defend their rights. He did say, however, that ways should be found to prevent the embargo from harming the other EC states.

5. The managing director of PAZ, a large Israeli oil company, told a US diplomat today that both the Ashdod and Haifa refineries are operating normally. There is no shortage of petroleum products produced in Israel, but there is a shortage of aviation fuel for prop-driven transport aircraft. PAZ is the only importer of this product and they are having trouble finding sufficient quantities. Iranian crude, currently en route around Africa to avoid the blockade of the Bab al-Mandab straits, is expected to arrive in Israeli ports in about 20 days.

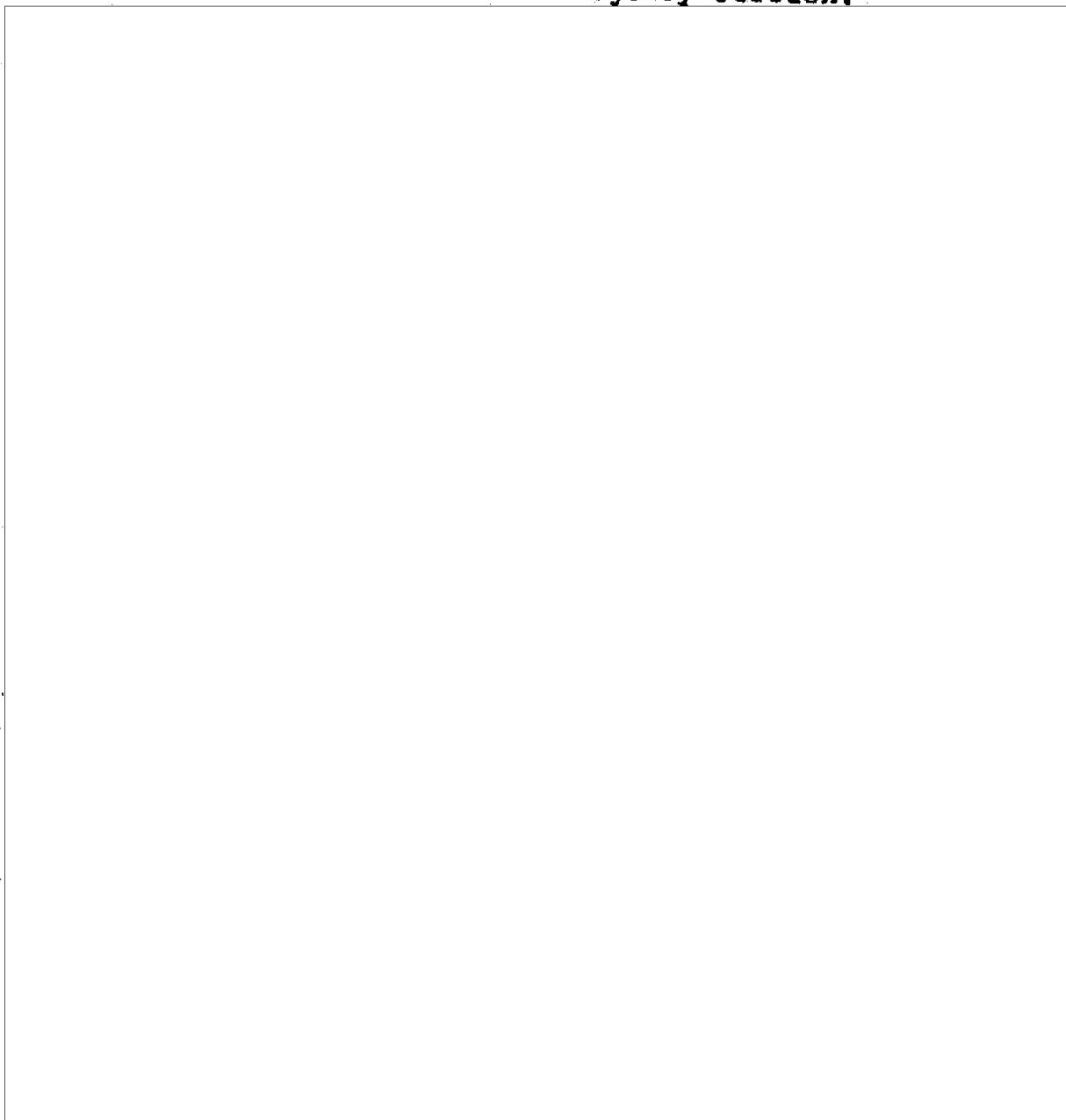
UNITED NATIONS

6. General Siilavasvuo, the acting Commander of UNEF, yesterday again asked Israel to withdraw its troops to the October 22 cease-fire lines. Secretary-General Waldheim has been under pressure from the non-aligned states to implement the resolution and the

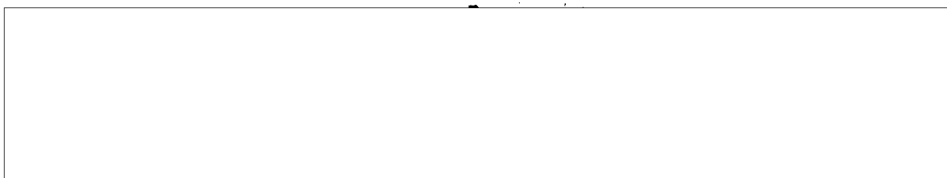


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nonaligned states may intend to request a Security Council meeting in which Tel Aviv could be called to account for its intransigence; a negative Israeli reply, or even a refusal to reply, could be the occasion for a call for an emergency session.



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SOVIET AIRLIFT

12. There were no flights yesterday in the Soviet resupply efforts to the Middle East. At 0600

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MEIR ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS

15. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir informed the US Ambassador in Tel Aviv yesterday of her

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government's opposition to a separate Palestinian delegation to a peace conference. She felt that the Palestinians might adequately be included in the Jordanian delegation. The Ambassador suspects that Mrs. Meir would not be receptive to the inclusion of any fedayeen representatives, whom she referred to as "those murderers in Beirut."

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ANNEX

US OFFICIALS ONLY

PROSPECTS FOR RENEWED HOSTILITIES

There are increasing indications that both sides have been making preparations to resume fighting in the Middle East. Some fragments of the evidence indicate that the fragile cease-fire could be broken within a few days.

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--Both Israel and Syria in the last few days reportedly increased their preparedness in anticipation of a resumption of the fighting. Israel may have mobilized additional personnel and Syria has mobilized males under age 17 and over 45.

This, the increasing talk of a new war, the obvious preparations for fighting, and the list of unresolved problems suggest that either side is motivated and may intend to press on with new hostilities. Quick political and diplomatic maneuvering by all the parties involved will be a key deterrent.

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